

## Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority **Telephone Business Meeting 11:00 A.M.**

### **December 20, 2012 - Meeting Notes**

**Board Members Present:** Terry Willis, Grays Harbor County Commissioner; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Edna Fund, City of Centralia; Ron Averill, Lewis County Commissioner; J. Vander Stoep, Town of Pe Ell; Jim Cook, City of Aberdeen; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville; Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County Commissioner; Vickie Raines, City of Cosmopolis; Arnold Haberstroh, City of Chehalis; Ken Estes, City of Montesano; Lionel Pinn, City of Napavine

**Others Present:** Mark Swartout, Julie Balmelli-Powe, Rob Hill, Kimberly Pincheira, John Donahue; Lisa Broadt, Chris Hempleman, Merlin MacReynold; Lee Napier; Scott Boettcher; Jim Kramer

#### **Handouts/Materials Used:**

- Agenda
- Meeting Notes from November 15, 2012
- Flood Authority Work Tasks and Staff Assignments January – June 2013
- Governor Gregoire's 2013 Budget Policy Brief
- Budget Letter from Governor Gregoire
- Chehalis Basin Flood Budget Summary
- Financial Report

#### **1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Raines at 11:06 a.m. who turned the meeting over to Jim Kramer.

#### **2. Introductions**

Participants identified themselves; the full Flood Authority Board was present.

#### **3. Action: Approval of Agenda**

There were no corrections or additions and the agenda was approved.

#### **4. Action: Approval of November 15 Meeting Notes**

There were no corrections or additions and the meeting notes were approved.

#### **5. Update: Governor's Proposed Capital Budget**

Mr. Kramer stated four documents from Keith Phillips had been emailed explaining what was in the Governor's budget and her announcement of the Chehalis Basin's portion of the capital budget. There was a letter from Governor Gregoire which Mr. Kramer hoped would be picked up by the newspapers. A policy brief described the flooding issue in the Chehalis Basin and why the Governor supported it in the capital budget and it is largely what was recommended by the work group. Mr. Kramer asked for comments or questions regarding the proposed budget.

Commissioner Averill stated he was pleased with what he read and that the local prioritizations were picked up. He asked if there is a general understanding that what did not show up will be supplemental or included in future biennial budgets. Mr. Kramer stated the Governor was trying to juggle a lot of

different elements in the capital budget and more was received to consider than what was originally expected. The Governor understands there is more work to do in future budgets and one key in addition to getting on-the-ground improvements is also to decide on the ultimate combination of projects, knowing that those will lead to greater funding.

Commissioner Averill stated he assumed the \$1.7 million for structural damage was state money. This normally comes from FEMA. Mr. Kramer stated there were a couple of areas in the budget that assumed there would be federal money to match state funding. That was identified in the material that went to the Governor – money that came from FEMA for buyouts, etc.

Commissioner Averill stated the same thing could be done with critter pads with NRCS money. Mr. Kramer acknowledged that there are other pots that could potentially add to that, as well as additional funding for multi-purpose fish projects that might be added.

Commissioner Averill congratulated Mr. Kramer. Mr. Kramer stated a thank you goes to everyone for pulling this together. Mr. Phillips, the Governor and OFM worked very hard to find ways to fund at this level.

Chairman Raines thanked the Flood Authority for its guidance, and especially the project committee for including the projects in the matrix and coming up with a plan to move forward.

Mr. Vander Stoep stated the airport levee was to be widened under Phase I which will make it safer for the airport and the stores behind the levee as well as for I-5. The Flood Authority recommended Phase I be at the top of the funding but it is not there. Mr. Vander Stoep agreed with the Governor's committee in stating that raising the levee would add a 1.2" rise at Grand Mound if the conditions were the same as in 2007. He did not want to have Lewis County propose to raise that levee until it is done with water retention or another I-5 protection project. He wants the record to show that Lewis County is looking out for people down river. The levee will be raised but it will be done in combination with one of the larger capital budget projects.

Mr. Kramer stated that discussion did occur with the Governor and she agreed with other projects and timing. What Mr. Vander Stoep said is something that needs to be emphasized as we go forward – we are committed to the Basin approach.

Commissioner Willis asked Mr. Kramer to elaborate on #5 and #6 in the Governor's recommendations. Mr. Kramer explained that #5 – "State agency technical assistance and project permitting" was money for the state agencies to continue to be involved in this effort through the next biennium. It is a slight reduction from what they received in the current biennium. It is hoped that there will be support and coordination for permitting projects that are funded in the capital budget.

#6 – "Basin program and project management" includes funding support for the Flood Authority and for managing scopes of work that are called out in the Governor's capital budget, including analysis for water retention and other aspects of work to be carried out.

Mr. Kramer stated that everyone's work is cut out for them. This was a big move by the Governor. His sense is that the work group has agreed to the Governor's request to continue through the legislative session and monitor activity in the legislature. Some of that work is monitoring fish in the river. The

work group will talk about legislative strategy on January 9 and those conclusions will be brought to the January 24 meeting.

**6. Action: Elect Chair and Vice Chair**

Ms. Fund made a motion to re-elect Chairman Raines and Vice Chair Valenzuela. Mr. Estes seconded. Mr. Pinn and Mr. Haberstroh supported the nomination. There was no objection and the motion was approved.

**7. Action: Approve Work Program and Meeting Schedule for January – June 2013**

Mr. Kramer stated the work program is the work for the rest of this fiscal year and it can significantly affect the work of the Flood Authority. It details the primary focus points for the next six months and the work that staff will do for the Flood Authority. The Chair and Vice Chair asked that it be forwarded to the Flood Authority. Mr. Kramer summarized the paper.

Staff is recommending going to a different meeting schedule. The first meeting in January will be on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday and will be an in-person meeting; every other month will be in-person meetings on the third Thursday as usual. In between there will be phone meetings on the third Thursday. Staff thinks the work can be accomplished with this schedule and it will save money that can be spent elsewhere.

Commissioner Averill stated he had no issue with the primary tasks. He was concerned with funding because everything is encumbered. If the tasks change significantly there may need to be a supplemental agreement with OFM to memorialize those changes.

Mr. Kramer stated in terms of the budget, there are no recommended changes to the budget. There may be amendments to the agreement with Lewis County and OFM regarding the deliverables. It was looked at in terms of what has been spent by the contractors and what might be spent. There will be savings in WSE's contract and Mr. Kramer's contract. Commissioner Averill recommended looking at that before the January meeting.

Mr. Kramer stated what needs to be tracked is the actual staff support funding that is needed for the Flood Authority. The assumption is that it is a lot less money in terms of overall work because we are not paying for the fish studies and modeling. Which of those elements are done in the purview of the Flood Authority is yet to be determined.

There was no more discussion and the work program was approved.

**8. Update: Outreach and Communication Subcommittee Recommendations**

Ms. Fund stated the subcommittee is developing a Power Point and it could be done by Monday. Mr. Boettcher stated the committee talked about reaching out to new commissioners and council members and re-acquainting members with the Flood Authority and what is happening in the Basin. A Power Point could be taken around for a presentation.

Mr. Kramer stated taking information to the basin governments is an important step. Another element is getting periodic information to the newspapers about the progress being made regarding policies – possibly employing some social media to get information out more broadly.

Mr. Haberstroh thanked the Chronicle for doing the articles about flooding. Hopefully they can be used when reaching the public.

Mr. Boettcher stated a near term task is to get scheduled before the governing bodies. He will send out an email as a reminder and the reply should include whom he should contact or if there is another body that should be addressed. When he gets that information he will put a schedule together. Ms. Fund encouraged members to participate in other jurisdictions' meetings. Mr. Kramer agreed and pointed out the value of moving the meetings around.

Commissioner Valenzuela stated equally important to Task 1 is materials on the website. She noted that there is a less than adequate job being done of keeping the website up to date.

## **9. Financial Report**

Ms. Napier stated the report had been sent out and asked if there were questions. Commissioner Averill stated it is showing \$160,763+ encumbered but not spent. Some of those monies were originally encumbered because it was thought they would be needed. Some of the tasks have not cost as much as anticipated and there is room to move money around to cover areas that need additional money. There is some flexibility but the report shows none.

Mr. Kramer stated any amendments that are needed can be brought to the January meeting, or contract changes to the Lewis County agreement. There is flexibility changing the meeting schedule which frees up money and there is money not being spent by Watershed Science and Engineering (WSE).

Ms. Napier stated that on December 17 the Lewis County BOCC authorized the 6<sup>th</sup> supplemental agreement between WEST and Lewis County. This is the contract work for which each jurisdiction will be billed. Each jurisdiction should have received information on their share. In the tracking sheet that was sent out in September there was an opportunity for jurisdictions to break up their bills. Ms. Napier needs to know about that decision soon.

Mr. Kramer asked Ms. Napier to send out an email to each member so responses can be tracked. This billing is for all of 2013, not just through June.

Commissioner Valenzuela asked if the jurisdictions are being asked to pay what goes on six months beyond what the sheet shows. Commissioner Averill explained that the yearly contract is for \$54,000, which is not a change from what we previously had, but we are going on the calendar year rather than the state fiscal year.

Commissioner Valenzuela asked if the user friendly element will impact the actual cost through 2013. Mr. Kramer stated it does not; the changes may require work by WEST and it would be covered by savings from other contracts.

Commissioner Averill stated the Authority went back to WEST and suggested that the additional funding to make it more user friendly be absorbed into the contract and David Curtis agreed to that.

Mr. Kramer stated he and Scott thought much of the work and training would fall on Scott. That has not been sorted out yet – Scott or WEST – but it will be figured out before the January meeting.

## **10. Public Comment**

Ms. Balmelli-Powe thanked the Flood Authority for getting through the hard times, and thanked Lara, Jim and Scott for their perseverance and keeping everyone level-headed. The board learned that

decisions can be made on facts and not just with the heart. Ms. Powe also stated that Congresswoman Herrera-Beutler is pleased with the progress and the capital budget and she is in favor of keeping the cause fresh in the minds of those that will assist us in the future. She is trying to pave the way so that the feds may be able to help.

## **11. Reports**

a. Chair's report - There was no report.

b. Member Reports

*Lewis County* – Commissioner Averill stated his term ends at the end of this month. He has been with the Flood Authority since its inception and served as its first Chair. The Authority went through a lot of hard times and he thanked those who helped weather the storm and move forward. There were times when he thought this body would suffer the past problems but he leaves this group with the optimism that it is ready to finally do something about the problem. He will be watching and may be listening and will certainly be encouraging everyone.

*Grays Harbor County* – Commissioner Willis stated the Wishkah project and Satsop project have OFM contracts and engineers have been hired. There will be citizen subcommittee meetings coming up. People in those neighborhoods are happy to see these projects going forward.

This, too, is Commissioner Willis' last Flood Authority meeting and she appreciated working with everyone on the various projects and stated the hard work is paying off. She will not be totally gone – she will be helping keep these two projects moving forward with the engineers and she wished everyone well in 2013.

Mr. Cook stated that Commissioners Willis and Averill have been two solid anchors of this organization and they will be sorely missed. He hoped the people moving into their positions do well – they will have big shoes to fill.

Mr. Kramer stated he was surprised and amazed at the work that has been done and the great holiday present from the Governor. This kind of investment has never been made before by the state. Commissioner Willis and Commissioner Averill have worked very hard to make this happen and he is hopeful that they will be around in helping the action get down on the ground. He thanked them both.

c. Correspondence

A letter was received this morning from Ms. Fowler, which Mr. Kramer read. It congratulated the Authority on the work it has accomplished and the proposed funding from the Governor.

d. State Team Report

Mr. Donahue reported that he had spent some time helping with the budget. Since the last meeting of the Flood Authority the Army Corps of Engineers stated they will be closing out the Twin Cities report and expect to make a decision about where to go with the project. After talking to Keith Phillips it was decided to delay any decision on the Twin City project until we have completed the work laid out for the next biennium. He expects a reply early next month.

Mr. Kramer stated the alternatives report has been finalized; it was waiting to incorporate the Governor's budget. He has asked for a summary and close out memo from Anchor QEA's two studies:

fish impact and fish enhancement. It will be an informative report to both the public and the Flood Authority and should be out in the next couple of days.

**12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on January 24 which is the fourth Thursday. The location is to be determined. Information will be distributed during that week.

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.